

Top Scorers Honored

Mark Joslin*North Central Career Center***Kayla Bond***Conway Adult Education Center***Esther Lipsy***North Arkansas College***Phillip Smith***Shorter College***Eamon Olwell***ASU – Mountain Home***Free Mailand***Fort Smith Adult Education Center***Kristopher Hollingsworth***Conway Adult Education***Melinda Bogard***Conway Adult Education***Destiny Height***Conway Adult Education***Annie Holmes Jenkins***North Arkansas College***Melissa Beachy***North Arkansas College***Deborah Helms***Pulaski County Adult Education Center***Paul Hardin***Shorter College***Monica Davidson***Little Rock Adult Education Center***Alton Tanner***Arkansas Correctional School***Zachary Freund***Conway Adult Education Center***Lindsay Larkin***Stuttgart Adult Education Center***Richard Barchenger***Fayetteville Adult Education Center***Jeffrey Garrison***Little Rock Adult Education Center***James Anderson II***Shorter College*

Governor Addresses 2009 Top GED® Scorers

Individuals earning the 25 highest scores on the GED Tests during 2009 were recognized in an awards ceremony held April 15, 2010, in the Old Supreme Court Chamber in the State Capitol. Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe addressed the test-takers and a crowd of family members and Adult Education supporters.

Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) Director, William L. "Bill" Walker, encouraged the group to continue on their paths toward greater success. Dr. Jim Purcell (Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education) and James Smith (Deputy Director, Adult Education Division/ACE) made presentations to the award recipients. Both noted the scholarship opportunities and support available to them for further education. Janice Hanlon (Administrator, Arkansas GED Testing) recognized the accomplishments of and plans of each award recipient; many have either transitioned to a two-year or four-year college or have plans to do so in the near future. The Department of Higher Education will award 10 Second Effort Scholarships for \$1000 per year for up to four years to qualifying top scorers.

Of the 8,657 individuals testing last year, 7,274 passed which gives Arkansas a pass rate of 84%. Mark Joslin of Leslie earned the year's highest score of 790 from a possible 800.

The GED tests are designed to measure major academic skills that are learned during four years of high school. The test consists of five parts: writing, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies.



Governor Mike Beebe congratulates GED Top Scorers of 2009.



Above: Jim Smith, Jim Purcell, Bill Walker, Peggy Adams (GED Examiner/North Central Career Center), 2009 Top Scorer Mark Joslin, and Mary Kirk (North Central Career Center Adult Education Instructor).

Below: Top Scorers, Governor Mike Beebe, along with Higher Education and Career Education agency staff members.



The Arkansas Department of Career Education funds the Adult Education Division. The Adult Education Division provides programs and services statewide.

AALRC and ALC Relocate

The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) and Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc. (ALC) have recently relocated to 525 West Capitol Avenue in Little Rock. The new facility provides a centralized location for easier access and ample parking.

The contemporary meeting spaces, library area, computer lab and staff work areas will all assist AALRC in achieving their mission of providing information, resources and professional development for the Arkansas Adult Education community.

Visit AALRC.org or call 501-907-2490 for more information or directions.

Jefferson County Adult Education Instructors Combine Experience and Compassion in Classroom

Phyllis Braswell began her commitment to education just out of college at the Jefferson County Regional Adult Education Center in 1971. She teaches reading and language skills with more than just the curriculum. Braswell says, "students are not all working on the same level--an aspirin doesn't cure everything. If you show understanding, love, and compassion, our students will give that back. I learn from them." A student said about Braswell: "She helps us understand and will go over it as many times as we need it."



JoAnn Davis teaches math. She says she "wants students to attain their goals—whether that be college, a job, or the military." Davis recognizes fractions as one of the most difficult aspects of math for most students. She teaches with results in mind saying, "they must see the relationship between knowing multiplication tables, fractions, and geometry. Once they get over their fear of fractions, they can move on."



Jefferson County Regional Adult Education Center: A Successful Past, Present and Future

"The Jefferson County Regional Adult Education Center aims to improve daily, monthly, and annually" says the center Director, Jesse Rawls. According to Rawls, "adult education is much more than most people realize." The center and staff prove that statement as true by offering a multitude of services including instruction in math, science, social studies, language skills; GED Testing services; English as a Second Language classes; and life skills such as computer technology and counseling. The center serves three counties—Jefferson, Dallas and Cleveland and has approximately 20 satellite locations within the service area. Since July 1st of last year almost 2,000 students enrolled in 12 hours or more of adult education classes. The program graduated 174 GED credential recipients last year.



Above: Jesse Rawls, Director, Jefferson County Regional Adult Education Center

Mr. Rawls has been in the job about one year, and his goals are clearly outlined.

- Continue to implement new and innovative ideas
- Offer more opportunities for professional development to teachers
- Increase teacher accountability
- Establish and maintain the best learning environment possible
- Work to give teachers the tools, technology, and resources to do their job at a higher level



Below: GED test-takers receive instructions before taking exam.

"What a lot of people don't know," says Rawls, "is that adult education began right here in Pine Bluff. It was one of the first programs in the nation. Today we have a total of 303 years of adult education experience on our faculty and staff." Rawls is personally grateful for the opportunity to work with the Jefferson County Adult Education Center to continue the legacy of excellence in service.

An Arkansas Adult Education Administrators' Meeting was held on April 19th in Little Rock. During the meeting literacy providers received a briefing on the Administrator's Manual and timesheets used for all recipients of federal adult education funds.

Literacy providers and adult education directors jointly learned of the changes in the assessment policies made by the US Department of Education/Office of Vocational Education; the policy changes will be reviewed in full by the State Board of Career Education during their June session. Jim Smith, Adult Education Deputy Director says the importance of the meeting was to "insure accuracy in records and to make sure 100% of the programs are informed and trained." Other items—including assurance requirements, the funding issues facing adult education and the possibility of shortfalls—were also addressed during the meeting.

Visit <http://ace.arkansas.gov/adult.html> to access updated policies and forms.